

Report of the auditor-general to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the council on the Knysna Municipality

Report on the financial statements

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Knysna Municipality set out on pages 5 to 99, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015) (DoRA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the municipality's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Knysna Municipality as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

7. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

8. As disclosed in note 43 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2015 have been restated as a result of errors discovered during the 2015-16 financial year in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2015.

Impairments

9. As disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, the municipality provided for the impairment of receivables from exchange transactions amounting to R58 651 360.
10. As disclosed in note 5 to the financial statements, the municipality provided for the impairment of receivables from non-exchange transactions amounting to R102 834 341.

Contingent assets

11. As disclosed in note 41 to the financial statements, the municipality disclosed contingent assets to the amount of R64 080 000 relating to a dispute over properties with the Eden District Municipality, with both municipalities claiming that these are their properties. The properties are not yet recognised in the municipality's financial statements.

Additional matters

12. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unaudited supplementary information

13. The supplementary information set out on pages 100 to 106 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited this information and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Unaudited disclosure notes

14. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA, the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with this legislation. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

15. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, compliance with legislation and internal control. The objective of my tests was to identify reportable findings as described under each subheading, but not to gather evidence to express assurance on these matters. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Predetermined objectives

16. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following selected objective presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2016:
- Strategic focus area 1: basic services on pages 8 to 35
17. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it was consistent with the planned objectives. I further performed tests to determine whether indicators and targets were well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable, time bound and relevant, as required by the National Treasury's Framework for Managing Programme Performance Information.
18. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
19. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following objective:
- Strategic focus area 1: basic services

Additional matters

20. Although I identified no material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected objective, I draw attention to the following matters:

Achievement of planned targets

21. Refer to the annual performance report on pages 8 to 35 for information on the achievement of the planned targets for the year.

Adjustment of material misstatements

22. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information for Strategic Focus area 1: Basic Services. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

Compliance with legislation

23. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality had complied with applicable legislation regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key legislation, as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Internal control

24. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Other reports

25. I draw attention to the following engagements that could potentially have an impact on the municipality's financial, performance and compliance-related matters. My opinion is not modified in respect of these engagements that are in progress.

Investigations

26. The municipal manager is currently suspended as he is under investigation.

Auditor-General

Cape Town

30 November 2016



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence